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Pegasus Impounded

wonted round of my singing; let my lady, touched (by my words), find pleasure, in the familiar music." That is all. (*Gaudeat in solito tacta puella sono*). Just possibly, though not probably, Propertius meant "young ladies" rather than "my lady." But there is no hint of the decadent meaning which Mr. Pound read into the passage by misunderstanding *tacta*, and taking the preposition *in* as if it were a negating part of an adjective *insolito*. His own context should have shown him the absurdity of his version.

If Mr. Pound were a professor of Latin, there would be nothing left for him but suicide. I do not counsel this. But I beg him to lay aside the mask of erudition. And, if he must deal with Latin, I suggest that he paraphrase some accurate translation, and then employ some respectable student of the language to save him from blunders which might still be possible. If he does not owe this to himself, he owes it to his author, of whose fate otherwise one must think, in Browning's words from *Sordello*, as that of

Some captured creature in a pound,
Whose artless wonder quite precludes distress.

Wm. Gardner Hale

MR. WALEY ON THE T'AO CH'EN POEM

Dear Editor: May I suggest two small emendations to Mrs. Ayscough's interesting collection of Chinese poems in **POETRY** for February?

First, the last two lines of the T'ao Ch'ien poem mean,

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not—

Does the Yellow Emperor regard these things
Because it is the fashion to do so
Among people of importance?

but—

It must not be left to Superior People to prize it,
For it was valued by our Yellow Emperor.

The Superior People (Chün Tzu) are the Confucianists. The Yellow Emperor was the patron saint of Taoism, therefore T'ao Ch'ien, himself a Taoist, speaks of "our Yellow Emperor".

Second, Wang Ch'ang-ling, one of the most famous of Chinese poets, lived in the eighth, not in the tenth century.

I have not the Chinese texts of any of the other poems.

Arthur Waley

London, February 20th, 1919

A WORD OF PROTEST

The following letter comes from the editor of *Youth*:

Dear Editor: A short time ago POETRY announced that *Youth: Poetry of Today* was sponsored by the Harvard Poetry Society and since then this erroneous impression has gained ground. It is in no way true, and, while one of our avowed aims is to encourage the American undergraduate by means of our associate editors at various colleges, we are not an undergraduate publication. We aim to present also the best work of maturer American poets, such as Edwin Arlington Robinson, Amy Lowell, Conrad Aiken, Witter Bynner, John Gould Fletcher, etc., who have already appeared in *Youth*, and we have a board of corresponding editors designed to keep the English reader in touch with the poetry of foreign languages.

Royall Snow